The officers from State Electricity Boards deployed to work in the Regional Electricity Boards are engaged in the preparation and finalisation of Regional Energy Accounts. Their pay and allowances are met by the parent organization.

(c) Approval of the Ministry of Power has not been taken. Regional Electricity Boards are subordinate offices of Central Electricity Authority. Comptroller and Auditor General has raised objection against such retention of officers from State Electricity Boards working in Regional Electricity Board.

(d) Central Electricity Authority is being directed to discontinue this arrangement with immediate effect.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Coal theft in coal mines

†311. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal theft is being committed on large scale in coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any concrete step to stop this theft; and

(c) if so, by when and the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) On the basis of available evidence, it can not be said that coal theft is being committed on a large scale from coal mines in the country.

(b) and (c) The following steps are being taken by coal producing subsidiaries of CIL to prevent theft or pilferage of coal:—

(i) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal, and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

(iii) Construction of watch towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area.

(iv) Erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pit head depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours.

(v) Escorting of loaded rakes upto railway weighbridges by armed guards and joint patrolling with Railway Protection Forces in the long railway tracks which are prone to wagon looting.

(vi) Sealing of illegal mining spots.

(vii) Stringent action against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.

(viii) Engagement of lady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work, and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

(ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.

(x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

Revision of coal royalty in Orissa

312. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) since when the royalty on coal in Orissa has not been revised by the Union Government;